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MARCH 1965  
*Wildlife*

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D. RAVER

# Virginia Wildlife

*Dedicated to the Conservation of  
Virginia's Wildlife and Related Natural Resources  
and to the Betterment of  
Outdoor Recreation in Virginia*

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**PUBLICATION OFFICE:** Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, 7 N. Second St., Richmond, Virginia

JAMES F. MCINTEER, JR. . . . . *Editor*  
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## MARCH

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**COVER:** Cousin of the Atlantic striped bass, the white bass is an excellent little (seldom exceeding four pounds) gamester of the Great Lakes and Mississippi waters, whose habitat has been extended into southwest Virginia by the construction of large water impoundments. There is more about white bass on page 10. Our artist: Duane Raver.

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## Think Big

THERE is a lot more to this suddenly burgeoning interest in "outdoor recreation" than meets the eye. In fact, the word "recreation" itself may be a poor and somewhat misleading term to describe what the shouting really is all about.

Population explosion, urbanization, growth of income, mobility—even such seemingly contradictory phenomena as the pressures of modern living, and increasing leisure—have been cited repeatedly as factors lending urgency to the problem of providing now for tomorrow's outdoor recreation needs. One might be led to suppose that we would like to turn our backs on the hard work and fast pace, the urbanization and industrialization that have produced both our material affluence and our leisure, and give ourselves over to a life of indolence in the environment of a park. Nothing is less likely to come to pass, nor is there any such nonsense involved in the real need to look well to the adequacy of what have come to be called our "recreational resources."

What really has happened is that material affluence and its accompanying mobility have given more people than ever before an occasional respite from toil and a chance to look with a comprehending eye at this land of theirs and to seek a renewing and satisfying experience beyond the confining walls of office, shop and home. And they don't particularly like what they see and what they find.

They find numbers of agencies with some responsibility for the outdoors whose activities and programs are not at all coordinated. They see land and landscapes essential to the commonweal denied them, devoured by urban sprawl, irrevocably altered, without plan or forethought. They see marshes drained or filled by men who know not the value of wetlands themselves or of other resources dependent upon them. They find waters—their public waters—filthy, unpleasant to be near, dangerous to be in.

Early Americans tamed the land. Those coming later exploited it, and laid a foundation of national wealth which we now accept and to which we must continue in our own time to add brick upon brick, course upon course, story upon story. But in the building it is ours to achieve that which alone would make the taming and exploitation of the land worthwhile—a total environment in which the quality of human life may match the quantity of material wealth. This is what is urgently needed—a physical environment in which human life may be enriched through work, play, and contemplation. And that is why the term "outdoor recreation," as applied to the need and the program being hammered out to fit that need, may be a misleading oversimplification.

Virginia's Outdoor Recreation Study Commission, created July 1, 1964, to inventory and appraise outdoor recreation facilities, estimate and project needs, and recommend courses of action, is to report to the Governor and General Assembly by next November 1. We would urge the Commission to THINK BIG! This is not a mere matter of promoting tourist trade, or of creating conditions favorable for further industrial development, although both surely would be by-products of success in the main undertaking. It is not just a matter of game and fish for sportsmen to take from lands and waters open to the public, although this, too, surely is among the objectives. If the Commission thinks big enough, it will find that what is of real concern is nothing less than a total physical environment for man which will enhance the quality and dignity of human life and human experience on earth.—J. F. Mc.

## Disappointed

I am frankly disappointed with the editorial comment to the letter concerned with shooting of bald eagles, our national symbol (VIRGINIA WILDLIFE, Dec. '64).

First, I am disappointed because I consider VIRGINIA WILDLIFE a high-caliber publication in the wildlife conservation and education field. Certainly, shooting of condors in California has proven to be a major factor in their decline. If VIRGINIA WILDLIFE has evidence that shooting is not the cause of eagle decline in Virginia, they ought to tell us something explicit about the cause.

Secondly, most wildlife organizations are now aware of a special and new factor involved in the decline of the bald eagle. That factor, which is glossed over as "little reproductive success" on the editorial page, should be pinpointed for readers—namely, the increasing load of DDT which eagles acquire from poisoned fish in the course of scavenging upon dead fish and consuming living fish which bear sublethal pesticide residues. The fish acquire DDT from the vast amount of agricultural chemicals which run off into our waters. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service studies have proven that DDT has a very adverse effect on captive birds whose diets include DDT. Death and sterility are among such influences.

Dr. Stephen Collins  
Citizen-Scientist Committee on  
Pesticides Use, Bethany, Conn.

*WE pointed out, in answer to Mr. Meloy's letter in the December issue, that there is no evidence that the decline of the eagle in Virginia in recent years is the result of slaughter by humans, except perhaps indirectly through subtle changes in the eagle's environment for which man may be held responsible. The accumulation of pesticides in the eagle's environment is the most significant of recent "subtle changes" in that environment for which man is responsible. But our present understanding of ecology being what it is, we cannot rule out the possibility that other environmental factors are involved as well.*

*We are all for a policy of extreme caution with respect to pesticides, and against their indiscriminate, widespread use. We also favor accelerated research to get answers and replace our assumptions with facts. There are many other kinds of environmental manipulation going on, some purposeful and some that are not even recognized as such, and these need a lot more investigation too. The environment, both of eagles and of men, is much too complex and delicate a thing to permit us to offer any simple answer to such a question as: "What really is happening to the bald eagle population?"—Ed.*

# IT'S EVERYWHERE!

**P**OLLUTION is the addition of harmful substances to a body or system of water beyond its capacity to assimilate them. While it may occur from natural causes, pollution is usually the result of human activities.

## Where Does It Come From?

The main sources of pollution are communities, through discharge of their basically organic wastes; industry, through discharge of all kinds of wastes; and agriculture, through wastes, silt runoff, and chemical poisons.

# POLLUTION

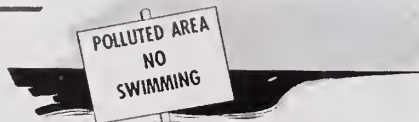
**KILLS WILDLIFE**



**DESTROYS PROPERTY VALUES**



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# FIGHT DIRTY WATER

NATIONAL WILDLIFE WEEK • MARCH 14-20, 1965

## Who Are The Polluters?

Everyone who adds any harmful substance to a body or system of water is a polluter. Everyone who releases water without doing everything in his power to make it safe for re-use is guilty of a crime against his fellow men and his environment.

### Farmers Are Polluters

Their careless land management leads to choking silt runoff. Drainage from their livestock finds its way into streams. Their careless use of chemical pesticides and herbicides contaminates waters with poisons.

### Industries Are Polluters

They use fantastic amounts of water, and return it for re-use contaminated with chemicals, wastes, oil, refuse, and

other pollutants. Some industries try very hard to avoid pollution. Some do not. Few succeed.

### People Working In Industry Are Polluters

They—the owners and workers—are the reason that many anti-pollution measures aren't used, and that much pollution-control equipment doesn't work. They are careless, reluctant to change methods or employ new ideas. They resist the cost of treatment of their discharges.

### Communities Are Polluters

Cities, towns, villages—they create vast amounts of human wastes (sewages, garbage, trash), then dump it raw or inadequately treated into our rivers, lakes, and oceans. This water often must be re-used later by other communities.

### People Are Polluters

They dump trash along or into our waters. They are careless of sewage disposal where no community facilities exist. Their indifference to the problem and to the well-being of others is frightening.

### Governments Are Perhaps Worst of All

At every level from village board to the Congress, they are responsible for poor sewage treatment and refuse disposal; for ineffective anti-pollution laws; for failure to enforce the laws they do pass; for failure to recognize the problems—and dangers—of pollution.

### But—

Pollution is not a government problem, or an industry or agricultural problem, or a community problem. It's your problem, because **YOU ARE THE POLLUTER!** That's right. You. Not government, or industry, or agriculture, or communities. Those are only four different words for groups of people. People means you. Every single one of you—of us—whoever and wherever you are.

YOU are the factory owner dumping wastes into a stream.

YOU are the employee who turns the outlet valve.

YOU are the farmer whose topsoil washes away into the rivers.

YOU are the suburbanite with the faulty septic system.

YOU are the housewife still using "hard," foaming detergents.

YOU are the picnicker whose rubbish chokes a stream.

YOU are the legislator who won't force polluters to clean up.

YOU are the taxpayer who complains at the cost of clean water.

YOU are the voter whose concern goes unspeakable.

Worst of all, you are the apathetic, voiceless, frightened, leaderless citizen who first commits these offenses against your environment and your fellow man, then refuses to do anything about it.

And you, after all, are the one who has the most to lose. Your home, your job, your sport, your health, and your very life may be threatened.

ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME *YOU* DID SOMETHING?



# Jekyll or Hyde - ARE YOU SURE



By DWIGHT R. CHAMBERLAIN  
Blacksburg

OUR great American bird and national symbol is the bald eagle; hence, only with temerity might one question this scavenging raptor's preeminence. But in fact some actually have, often suggesting other symbolic species (the wild turkey by Benjamin Franklin) and even the American crow. In defense of the latter, perhaps a thousand people have actually observed the common crow to the one fortunate professing to a live eagle's whereabouts in the last five years or so. (Bald eagles are rapidly declining in the United States except in the northern portion of their range, their mortality apparently resulting from subtle changes that man brings to the environment with which the birds are unable to cope.) And secondly, a recent mid-summer-fall survey of what crows eat in western Virginia has painted a much brighter picture in my mind than ordinarily sketched by bird books, agricultural leaflets, etc.

Between August 5 and October 7, 1964, I shot 25 crows in the following vicinities by number examined: thirteen in the Deerfield Valley; six northeast of Staunton; three in the McDowell-Monterey region; and three in the Roanoke Valley near Blacksburg. A total of 25 crows is hardly a sufficient sample for statistical inference, but a cursory idea of representative food preference was garnered by careful crop and gizzard analysis.

I noted the following approximations of food items per gizzard for *all crows* shot between August 5 and October 7:

- 39% Japanese beetles (family Scarabaeidae)—August-mid-September
- 40% Wild black cherries (*Prunus serotina*)
- 12% Corn (in the "milk" stage)
- 8% Grasshoppers, wild grapes (several species, but mostly *Vitis aestivalis*), snails, ground beetles, miscellaneous vegetable matter, seeds, undigested matter in cattle feces, and grit.
- 1% Carrion (opossum bones, fur, and skin)

The above observations definitely underwrite Kalmback's study (1939) which stated "more than one-third of all food consumed by crows from May to August is insect matter, and this food exceeds 10% of the diet from April-November." Also, in substantiation, to quote Ernest E. Good (1952) from *The Life History of the American Crow—Corvus brachyrhynchos Brehm*, "a yearly percentage of carrion eaten by the adult male crow is 2.58% as found by Kalmback (1939). January is the high month with 8.95% and July ebbs the low with .29%."

In reference to the high Japanese beetle consumption, it is my wish that critics would examine *apparent* corvid predation more carefully before hastily cornering a "sure"

(Continued on next page)



scapegoat as the following account illustrates: Last August, one irate Virginian related to me with "fire in his eyes" how flocks of crows had all but harvested his summer corn crop while in the standing "milk" stage. After inspecting his expansive cornfield, I noticed some crow damage, but only to its periphery (torn shucks with kernels missing from the ears, thus exposing them to further water damage). But more noticeable was a swarming infestation of Japanese beetles, guests of all the ears in the field! These gaudy orientals savor the cob's silky threads, which subsequently kills the entire host ear.

My next endeavor, with the farmer's permission, was to shoot five crows (by using a good crow call and a mounted great horned owl which usually infuriates them into scattergun range) that were previously feeding within the parameters of his cornfield. Five gizzards were subsequently opened and their contents exposed to the incredulous crop owner. Only one gizzard contained but a single kernel of corn, and the balance were aglitter with the greenish hue of Japanese beetle integuments. Could it be that these so called black "corn thieves" were allied with the farmer in this instance? I think so!

The following analogous experience that was submitted in correspondence by R. Bruce Horsfall which appears in *Life Histories of North American Jays, Crows, and Titmice*, A. C. Bent, also reveals how we may unwittingly condemn the crow when the facts are not clearly understood.

"Mr. Horsfall bought a farm near Redbank, New Jersey, where he planted five acres in corn and ten acres in asparagus. He noted that the lower end of his field, where crows were present each day during the early morning hours, yielded no harvest. Mr. Horsfall immediately jumped to the conclusion from published accounts of crow depredations on farm crops that these birds were responsible for his loss. Without further investigation, the crows were shot and the bodies left there as a warning to others. After a number of crows were killed, an examination of the stomach contents revealed a mass of greenish liquid filled with cutworm heads, black beetles, and undigested materials. On the following day a visit was made to the fields in the early morning hours at about the time the crows were accustomed to be present. Great numbers of cutworms were found before they dug into shelter for the day. Mr. Horsfall thereupon decided to welcome his much-maligned friends, and he had reason to regret his past hasty judgment. He placed ears of corn on the ground and left the fields to the crows. They recognized the change of attitude, returned in numbers, cleared the field of cutworms, and rewarded the owner by giving him a full yield. Since this experience, Mr. Horsfall has been a staunch friend of the crow."

Most studies indicate that the crow must be judged beneficial or harmful to man's agrarian interests on a purely local basis. The crow's feeding habits are as mosaic as Jekyll and Hyde's changing personality (one study by the federal Fish and Wildlife Service has shown some 656 different items in the food taken). It is my feeling, therefore, that no national verdict is justifiable.

Until we knowingly understand that every good crow is not necessarily a dead crow, I am afraid I will have to underwrite Henry Ward Beecher's pithy statement, "If men wore black feathers and wings, very few of them would be intelligent enough to be crows."

## A TRAIL OF QUAIL

By KATHERINE W. MOSELEY

Arlington

WE knew bobwhites were numerous about our country home for we often heard their ringing, questioning call. "Bob-White?" and the cheerful response. "Bob-Whi-et, Bob. Bob-Whi-et." There were also the musical cries of "Wher-eer, Wher-eer" when a few became separated from the covey. We had been startled out of our wits if we accidentally flushed a quail in the woods and had it hurtle through the air with an explosive whir of stubby wings on a blustering flight.

All the same, we were not prepared for an early morning visit late in the summer of at least seventy five (by our excited count) high-headed, white-throated males and buff-throated females, mottled, tawny, chestnut-brown, sturdy little balls of feathers.

We had only the day before cleared the brush and brambles from that stretch of field that lay between the house and the river, leaving behind mostly ripening, seedling weeds. Through this bare earth and slight cover skipped six distinct coveys of quail. Each covey was led by one or two runners who seemed to survey the territory before reassuring the others. There was no regimentation as the coveys separated to scratch and feed in different sections of the area. They appeared completely relaxed and unafraid. There were no calls. A few would twirl their tails, rise on tiptoe and flap their wings in a gesture of good spirits.

We hardly breathed as we watched our guests from the window in the living room. We knew they would be aware of the slightest motion. Instead it was a screaming blue jay who sounded the alarm that set off the loud whirring of wings as they flew and skimmed the earth for the shelter of the sprawling hemlocks and laurel.

There have never been so many at one time. We know that is because of our clearing but we did leave to them hedges and the weedy rail fences. However we, on that day, became completely quail-conscious and quail-appreciative. We watch and listen and are constantly rewarded.

This winter there was the Loner. He was a plump little male with a conspicuous white throat and velvety black stripe over the eyes. He did not feed with the others who scratched twice a day for grain under the bird feeders. Instead he hovered nearby under a small pine tree or he

Unlike the males of many species, father bobwhite remains an attentive mate and parent throughout the nesting and rearing seasons.

Commission photo by Kesteloo







tiptoed through the rock garden.

At first we thought he must be the look-out man on guard. However he showed no interest in the others and let them depart over the knoll without him. Then he would nonchalantly take his time eating what they had left before he skipped off in a different direction. In about four hours he would be back under the pine before eating, still alone.

When we found evidence of one of their nighttime hide-outs, where they sleep squatting side by side in a circular group on the ground with tails toward the center of the ring and heads out, ready to burst away if threatened, we wondered if the Loner was in the cozy covey or if he was off by himself under a lonesome pine.

The birds of a bevy are usually very fond of each other and keep together if possible. If they become scattered they soon begin to call plaintively. There is a special call that brings together the family group. To us it sounds like "Wher-eer." To others it may be "Whale-lee," or "Whee-err." When reunited they talk together using many low tones of tender notes, a kind of happy murmuring.

In the spring when the fields are soft with rain and the winds blow gently from the south, the quail make ready to mate. At this time the good-natured males turn quarrelsome and often fight bitterly. By May each has chosen a mate and together the male and female build a nest in a depression of the ground under a weedhedge fence or at the foot of stumps. The nest is lined with grasses, leaves and weed stalks.

There may be ten to eighteen shiny white eggs packed in, pointed ends downward. All of the chicks pop out of the shells about the same time and are ready to leave the nest as soon as the natal down is dry. They immediately follow their parents who lead them from the nest and show them how to forage for food and teach them the note of alarm that means danger.

There are no words beautiful enough to frame this moment of sheer enchantment. We were driving slowly on the lane to our house when we saw in the roadway a mother quail followed by a large brood of babies so tiny they seemed unbelievable. Of course we stopped the car, but the mother seemed to panic. We could see her indecision as to the safest course for her family. Just then out of the brush on the other side of the road sailed the father. Almost clapping his wings he got behind the babies and hurried the youngsters with their mother into the heavy brush. The babies scurried between the parents, half-running, half-flying, like a flock of bouncing golden butterflies.

The birds have learned by necessity the art of concealment and the happy camouflage of their plumage can make the quail simply disappear on the open ground. My husband was walking through the little orchard when he heard a cyclone of wings. Looking up he saw a dark cloud of quail coming toward him with a hawk in pursuit. The quail dropped like stones just beyond him into a tangle of vines. One minute they were there, the next they had disappeared. The hawk wheeled a few circles and then left in disgust.

A quail must be almost stepped on before it will rise to wing. Hunters swear they have the ability to give off no scent at will, since the best of dogs often fail to flush them while only a few feet away. Rarely do the birds fly to trees for refuge.

The quality of the bobwhite's call is delicious, rich and pure. He enunciates so clearly it is hard to misunderstand his words though some farmers claim he says, "more wet," and foretell rain. Fishermen insist it is, "more bites," which means good fishing weather. Love probably inspires the quail's finest, more constant strains in the spring but all through the year he stays in clear, eloquent voice. There is nothing quite as cheerful as that familiar call on a day filled with snow.

Shy and elusive, beautiful only to those who see loveliness in muted tones and tender awkwardness are the quail. Their clear, bell-like notes of self-introduction reflect the sweetness and wildness and mystery of nature at its finest.

By the time the last snow of winter melts under a warming sun the abundant coveys of fall are reduced to about the same number of pairs as nested the previous spring, and the cycle begins again.

Commission photo by Kesteloo





## 1965 Stocking Summary

### LEGEND:

\*—National Forest Streams  
R.—River  
C.—Creek  
Br.—Branch  
Fk.—Fork

Species Stocked:  
B—Brook Trout  
R—Rainbow Trout  
BR—Brown Trout

	Period Stocked		
	Preseason	May	June
<b>ALBEMARLE CO.</b>			
Moormans R., N. & S. Fk.	R	R	
<b>ALLEGHANY CO.</b>			
Jackson R., Gathright Area	B,R	R,BR	R,BR
Potts C.	R	R,BR	
Jerry Run*	R	R	
Simpson C.*	R	R	
Smith C.*	R	R	R
Piney R.*	B	B	
Clifton Fge. Reservoir*	R	R	
Pounding Mill Run*	B,R	B,R	
Blue Springs Run	B,R	B,R	
<b>AMHERST CO.</b>			
S. Fk. Piney R. & Piney R. Proper	R	R,BR	R
Pedlar R., upper	R	R	R
Pedlar R., lower	R	R,BR	R
North Fk. Buffalo R.	B,R	B,R	
Brown's Mt. C.*	B,R	B	
Davis Mill C.*	B	B	
Enchanted C.*	B,R	B,R	
Little Irish C.*	B,R	B,R	
Pedlar R.*	R	R	BR
Rocky Row Run*	B	B	
S. Fk. Piney R.*	R	R	R
Statons C.*	B	B	B
<b>AUGUSTA CO.</b>			
St. Mary's R.	B,R	B,R,BR	B,R
Johns Run*	B	B	
Back C.*	R	R	
Kennedy Run*	B	B	
Upper Sherando*	R	R	
Lower Sherando*	R	R	
Big Mary C.*	B	B	
N. Fk. Buffalo*	B,R	B,R	
North R.*	B,R	B	B
Trout Run*	B		
Little R.*	B		
Buffalo Br.*	B	B	
Clayton Mill Br.*	B		
E. Dry Br.*	B	B	
Jerkentight C.*	R	R	
Ramsey Draft*	B	R	R

## TROUT FISHERMEN: CHECK YOUR TACKLE

THERE is a feeling of spring in the air and for the thousands of enthusiasts to whom real fishin' means just one thing—cold, rushing mountain water and trout—the main event of spring will occur on April 3, Opening Day, 1965!

Production at state trout rearing stations has been about the same as last year insofar as number of fish is concerned, but thanks to better management and improvements in water supplies at the rearing ponds this year's trout average somewhat larger than last year's and the total pounds of trout distributed to the state's put-and-take streams will be considerably above last year's production. A total of nearly half a million brooks, rainbows and browns from state and federal hatcheries will have been released in suitable streams before opening day in accordance with the accompanying stocking summary, and almost that many more will be held in reserve for release in the better streams during the May and June closed periods to spread the fishing as far as possible into the summer months. As in the past most of the fish will be yearlings (one and a half years old), but there will be the usual proportion of excess brood fish and two and a half-year-olds held over to add extra zest and excitement to the fishing.

No one can predict what stream conditions will be like a month from now, and of course adverse stream conditions can have a powerful effect on angling success. But if by then the streams are running cold and clear, neither unusually high nor low for the season, then April 3, 1965, should be a day for Virginia trout anglers to remember. The fish will be there, in quantity and quality, and hungry!

	Period Stocked		
	Preseason	May	June
<b>BATH CO.</b>			
Bullpasture R.		BR	
Jackson R. along Rt. 623	B,R	B,R,BR	R,BR
Jackson R. Gathright area	B,R	R,BR	R,BR
Back C., Highland Co. line down-stream 3 mi.	B,R	R	R
Back C. Gorge*	R	R	R,BR
Lick Run*	B	B	
L. Prong Wilson*	B	B	B
Mares Run*	B	R	B
S. Fk. Pads C.*	B	B	
Muddy Run*	B	B	B
Little Mill C.*	B		
<b>BEDFORD CO.</b>			
Hunting C.*	R	R	R
Battery C.*	B,R		
<b>BLAND CO.</b>			
Wolf C.	R	R,BR	R
Laurel Ck.	B,R	R	
Lick C.	R	R,BR	R
No Business C. (includes Giles)	B,R	R	R
Lick C.*	R	R	R
<b>BOTETOURT CO.</b>			
Jennings C.	B,R	B,R	R,BR
Mill C.	B,R	R,BR	R
Roaring Run	B,R	B,R	R
North C.*	R	R	R
Middle C.*	R	R	R
McFalls C.*	R	R	R
<b>BUCHANAN CO.</b>			
Slate C.	B,R	R	
<b>CARROLL CO.</b>			
Big Reed Island	R	R,BR	R
Little Reed Is.	B,R	R,BR	R
Crooked C.	B,R	R,BR	R
Stewart C.	R	R	
Burkes Fk. C.	R	R	R
Coal C.	B,R	R	R



# WANT TO FISH AN UNSTOCKED TROUT STREAM?

Are you a "purist"? Would you rather catch native trout than hatchery-reared fish? Do you prefer artificial lures to natural baits?

There are forty-two year 'round, "native" trout streams within Shenandoah National Park, stocked by annual natural reproduction, where the only fishing is with artificial lures—truly a "purist's paradise." For a list of these streams, inquire of the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, Richmond, or Shenandoah National Park Headquarters, Luray.

And don't forget the Fish-for-Fun area on the Rapidan and Staunton Rivers, where native fish may be taken by artificial lures, and where all fish landed must be returned immediately to the water, to live, to grow, to bite and fight again.

	Preseason	Period Stocked May	June
<b>CRAIG CO.</b>			
Sinking C.	B,R	B,R,BR	
Johns C.	B,R	B,R,BR	
Potts C.	B,R	R,BR	R,BR
Barbours C.*	B,R	B,R	R
<b>DICKENSON CO.</b>			
Caney C.	B,R	B,R	
Frying Pan C.	B,R	R	
<b>FLOYD CO.</b>			
Beaver C.	B,R	R	R
Burks Fk. C.	R	R	R
Goose C.	B,R		
Howells C.	B,R	R	R
Indian C.	B,R	R	R
Meadow C.	B,R	R	R
Rush Fk.	B,R	R	R
West Fk.	R	R	R
Laurel Fk.	R	R	R
Mira Fk.	B		
<b>FRANKLIN CO.</b>			
Green C.	B,R	B,R	
Maggoddee C.	B,R	B,R	
Runnett Bag C.	B,R	B,R	
Blackwater R.	B,R	B,R	
<b>FREDERICK CO.</b>			
Back C.	B,R	B,R	
Cedar C.	B,R	R	R
Paddy Run*	R	R	R
<b>GILES CO.</b>			
Big Stony C.	B,R	R,BR	R
Dismal C.*	R	R	R
<b>GRAYSON CO.</b>			
Big Wilson C.	R	R,BR	R
Middle Fk. Helton C.	B	R	R
Helton C.	B,R	R	R
Big Fox C., Lower 4 mi.	R		
Big Fox C., upper 4 mi.	R	R,BR	R
Middle Fox C.	R	R	R
Elk C.	R	R,BR	R
Peach Bottom C.	B,R	R	R
Chestnut C.	B,R	R	
Turkey Knob Fk. C.	B,R	R	

(Continued on page 19)



Va. Dept. of Conservation & Economic Development photo

## 1965 REGULATIONS

### CREEL LIMIT

8 trout daily, of all species in the aggregate, except in Shenandoah National Park and in impounded waters where the daily limit is 5 of all species in the aggregate.

### OPEN SEASONS

There is no closed season for taking trout in Carvin Cove, Philpott, and South Holston reservoirs.

The state-wide open season for taking trout is 12:00 noon April 3 through December 31, from one hour before sunrise after opening day to one hour after sunset daily, with the following exceptions:

Shenandoah National Park is open to trout fishing from 12:00 noon April 3 through October 15, from one hour before sunrise after opening day to one hour after sunset daily.

The season will be closed from May 3 through May 7 in Alleghany, Augusta, Bath, Bland, Botetourt, Buchanan, Craig, Dickenson, Giles, Highland, Lee, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise and Wythe counties.

The season will be closed from May 10 through May 14 in Albemarle, Amherst, Bedford, Carroll, Floyd, Franklin, Frederick, Grayson, Greene, Henry, Madison (except for the Fish-for-Fun area on the Rapidan and Staunton Rivers and their tributaries), Montgomery, Nelson, Page, Patrick, Pulaski, Rappahannock, Roanoke, Shenandoah, and Warren counties, and in the Roanoke River west of the corporate limits of Salem.

### SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS

Seines and nets, snagging, feeding of trout, and fishing with more than one rod, one line, and one hook are prohibited in designated trout waters.

Artificial lures only may be used to take trout in Shenandoah and Page Counties in the waters of Little Stony Creek above Woodstock water supply dam and in Passage Creek above the bridge on the road leading to Smith Creek.

Within Shenandoah National Park the use of natural bait is prohibited and only artificial lures with single hooks may be used. The minimum size limit within the Park is eight inches.

Within the Blue Ridge Parkway fishing hours are from sunrise to sunset, no live or dead fish or fish eggs may be used as bait, and digging for worms is prohibited.

In the Rapidan and Staunton Rivers and their tributaries upstream from a sign at the lower Shenandoah National Park boundary in Madison County it is lawful to fish only with artificial lures with single, barbless hooks. All fish caught in these waters must be immediately returned to the water, and no fish may be in possession at any time in this area.



Thirteenth in the series of articles on some of the favorite angling hot spots in Virginia.

## South Holston Hot Spot

By LEA LAWRENCE  
*Nashville, Tennessee*

**T**HERE'S a little bit of TVA in southwest Virginia, but a little bit is all it takes to provide some of the most spectacular early-spring fishing to be found in the entire state.

It's hot action in cold months, for March and April—and sometimes as early as February—is the time when the white bass, or “stripes” as they are called locally, move up into the headwaters of the lake on a spawning run. Anywhere in the upper part of the impoundment, and upstream in the Middle Fork and South Fork of the Holston River, there is plenty of activity.

In addition, and as sort of a bonus, there are occasional flurries of activity from crappie and bass to add spice to the angler's prospects. Moreover, if efforts to establish sauger in this lake are successful, then another early-spring wanderer will join the ranks.

True, the white bass run isn't something which goes unnoticed, but there's lots of water to spare, and unquestionably plenty of fish. Even with a liberal creel limit of 25 per day, it's often not much trouble to take this number in a couple of hours. Many times I've accomplished the job in far less time than that. And those times when there are crappie and bass to add to the stringer—well, you can see that things can look pretty rosy!

You don't need to worry about missing the action here, either. An occasional look at the banks of the lake thereabouts, or listening to the talk around a sporting goods store for a few minutes will tip you off, because fishermen from all over the southwest Virginia and northeast Tennessee region keep a close eye on things. They're raring to go at the first hint of action.

Choosing tackle for a foray with the white bass isn't a tough proposition; fly rods, spinning or casting gear all work just fine. I've had some of my most lucrative payoffs with a fly rod on such runs, and recall one time in particular when I spent an entire afternoon taking white bass two at a time on a twin streamer rig. These were hefty fish, too;

and if you don't think a couple of good-sized white bass, each trying to go in a different direction and aided in their struggles by a pretty swift river current, don't spell “trouble” on light tackle, you've got another think coming. That same afternoon, as I caught and released fish until my arm felt as though it had been beaten with a baseball bat, I believe I made a number of converts to the fly rod ranks. I was in mid-river, standing knee-deep on a gravel bar, and there were forty or fifty fishermen on the bank behind me. The fish were apparently schooled out where I was, because things along the bank were slow at the time.

Naturally, seeing my terrific luck made them certain, after a time, that it was the fly rod that was accounting for so many fish. Three of them finally piled into an old boat that was pulled up on the bank and paddled out just to watch. They didn't even bother to bring along their tackle. But they did ask a lot of questions about the fly rod and what I was using to lure the fish. When they went back to the bank they became the immediate center of activity. I think everyone who had seen me fishing wanted to know just what in the devil I was doing that they weren't.

I mentioned streamers as a fine fly rod lure, and while they are my favorite selection, tiny lead-head jigs, spinners and spoons are also very good. Both the spin fishermen and casters have the best success on lead-head jigs and spoons. Some fish the small jigs with a float, adjusting the depth to the particular location and keeping the lure from snagging the bottom. Others fish several small jigs at once, and when the schools are really in heavy concentration, the “two fish at a time” deal is quite common. I've seen three-at-a-time once, and it may occur even more frequently than I think.

Since the fish move upstream in schools, action may be very good for a short time, then fall off to a slump for awhile. Some fishermen attempt to move along with the schools, but this is a matter of guesswork and doesn't always produce. Most anglers remain in one spot, continuing to cast even when things are slow, hoping to pick up a straggler, or to locate a new school on the way up.

I said earlier that a “little bit” of the lake lies in Virginia, but there is actually nearly 10 miles of lake above the line. The easiest access to the lake when coming in from the north is to take Highway 75 out of Abingdon, although Highway 58, a few miles north of this point, will place you closer to where the two tributary streams enter the impoundment. Highway 421 out of Bristol, then on to Highway 44 (which becomes Highway 75 at the line) is another route.

Actually, this spring action is just a preview of fine fishing opportunity for the rest of the year on South Holston Lake. Few lakes anywhere equal it for smallmouth bass and largemouth bass fishing, and its crappie runs later in the spring are especially good. Rainbow trout have been introduced to the lake also, and already there have been fish of over 7 pounds taken. All told, it's a hard lake to top, regardless of the species sought or the time of year you plan to visit it.

But for me, when the hunting season has just become a memory and the fires of spring fishing begin to creep into my bones, I keep my eye on South Holston and wait for the words: “The white bass are running.”

And I'm running, too, for another round with some of nature's sportiest fish!





National Park Service photo

## DOGGED DUCKS

By J. P. LINDUSKA  
*Editor, Remington News Letter*

**I**F mallards are in short supply these recent years, it's through no fault of their women-folk. Hounded by drought-stricken marshes in the North, and predator-plagued shorelines farther south, the mallard hen remains one of the most persistent nesters of all waterfowl, according to Dr. George Burger of Remington Arms wildlife management department.

A classic example of such obstinance in the face of odds comes from Remington Farms, on Maryland's Eastern Shore, where biologists engage in intensive studies of ways to increase wild waterfowl nesting. Late last March, the heroine hen of this story set up housekeeping in a specially designed nestbox on a remote pond, as scores of her kind were doing all across the 3,000-acre Farms.

Being a determined type, Miz Mallard was incubating a whopping big clutch of 20 eggs by the end of April. She was safe from nest robbers in the protected box, but eyes other than those of Remington's biologists kept track of her progress. When the great day came in May and 12 downy fluffballs drifted to the pond from the nestbox and bobbed away after Momma, the owners of those eyes licked their collective chops and moved in.

Crows, horned owls, snapping turtles, raccoons, black bass, bullfrogs—nearly all things, it seems—love duckling dinners and this pond had more than its share of such critters. In 24 hours there were no more fluffballs.

And Momma? Mad, maybe, but not dismayed. There were eight eggs left in the nest, and by the next morning she was back to them with her life-giving warmth. By all odds these eggs should have been infertile, or any spark of life they contained long since extinguished. But patience and persistence can be rewarded in little lives, as well as big. Two days passed and the stubborn "Susy" emerged

triumphant with four more wee ones.

Predators are persistent, too. The next morning the four were two. Then one. Then none. This looked like the end. The hens of most duck species would have hollered uncle long before. Even many mallards would have been content to join a more successful sister and her brood, or retire to the reeds to molt and feed, free from the cares of tending young 'uns.

But not our gal. No moth-eaten gang of duckling-gulpers was about to foil her family plans, not if it took all summer. So, back to the old nestbox, now somewhat battered and askew, nearly empty of nest material and slightly on the ripe side from those four eggs that never made the grade. Out with the bad eggs, and on with the job at hand! It was June when she began anew: July by the time she was incubating the eight eggs of the fresh clutch. July, when heat, not cold, threatened the tiny embryos, when her body shielded the eggs from the sun, from temperatures in the 90's, that made the outside of the box too hot to touch!

It seemed unlikely that the eggs would hatch. Even if they did, wouldn't the ducklings disappear just as they had twice before? Could the dogged duck make it against these odds? She could, and she did. All eight of those eggs hatched! Half the ducklings vanished. But Dr. Burger reports that four youngsters—now nearly grown and past most dangers—were dabbling on that remote pond at Remington Farms late in August, and with them was a mighty proud—and probably mighty pooped—Momma.

Many waterfowl species may be in trouble these days. But if the heroine of this story and her sisters have anything to say about it, the mallard, for one, is a long way from defeat.

Success is sometimes a long time in the making, but perseverance is rewarded.

Photo by Allan D. Cruickshank, National Audubon Society





# WATER ACCESS ON VIRGINIA'S EASTERN SHORE

By HARRY L. GILLAM  
*Information Officer*

Game Commission Landing at Oyster, Virginia

**W**HEN we think of water for recreation it is hard to imagine a place with more of it than Virginia's Eastern Shore, so we felt this was a logical place to begin this series of articles pinpointing access sites constructed and maintained by the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries. Although there is water everywhere on the Eastern Shore, places from which boats can be launched are quite limited due to the flat marshy nature of the shoreline.

The Commission's access area program was conceived to provide public access to otherwise inaccessible waters for purposes of fishing, hunting, boating and general outdoor recreation. A suitable ramp for launching boats and adequate space for parking cars and trailers is provided at each site. In actual practice these launching facilities fall into three types according to use: boater's access, fisherman's access and multiple-use types.

Access sites primarily for boating require sturdy ramps with plenty of water since fairly large boats are frequently launched at these points. Most of the ramps of this type constructed to date have been of reinforced concrete and have incorporated sizable graveled parking areas. The modest surplus of boating registration funds remaining after the administrative costs of issuing numbers has been deducted is almost the sole source of funds for these ramps. All ramps on the Eastern Shore fall into this "boating" category since the Commission's only responsibility in these waters is to boaters and the hunters who have occasion to launch boats. Salt-water fishermen also use these ramps for access to nearby fishing grounds.

The second type of access point is strictly for fresh-water fishermen and occasional hunters. These sites are along streams too swift and too shallow for pleasure boating, but suitable for the use of small fishing boats. Since small boats are used, these ramps are frequently graveled and parking areas need not be as large since use is not so intensive. Actually the best method of angling in these streams is by floating from one access point to another.



(Continued on page 14)

NORFOLK



## VIRGINIA WILDLIFE

# CONSERVATIONGRAM

Commission Activities and Late Wildlife News . . . At A Glance

**DEER KILL DECLINES EAST OF BLUE RIDGE.** The Virginia deer kill east of the Blue Ridge for the 1964-65 season totaled 19,481, nearly a 30% drop from the 27,119 killed in this section the previous season according to Game Commission tag returns. Combined with the 11,645 killed during the two-week western season it brought the total harvest for the state to 31,126. This is the fifth consecutive year in which the state deer kill topped 30,000.

On the basis of more restrictive regulations which limited doe shooting to the last five days of the season over most of Piedmont Virginia, biologists were predicting a reduced eastern kill of around 20,000 animals. Unfavorable hunting weather was reported during the early season in the Dismal Swamp Area.

Southampton County reported the highest deer kill in the east with 1,384, followed by Caroline with 1,258 and Buckingham with 810. These same three counties were the leaders last year when their combined total kill was 4,767 compared to 3,452 this year.

**VISIBLE LICENSE REPORT STUDIED.** The Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries took no positive action at its meeting January 22 on the suggestion that Virginia adopt a visible hunting license after hearing a rather unencouraging report compiled from 10 states that now use the system. The Commission did agree, however, to discuss the matter further at some future meeting with representatives of the Virginia Wildlife Federation and the Virginia Division of the Izaak Walton League of America who made the original request.

The general consensus of the 10 states polled was that the license was considered a nuisance by hunters, that it was not of measurable value in preventing trespass, and could encourage laxity in checking hunting licenses. It was estimated that it would cost Virginia about \$24,000 annually to prepare the special license plates.

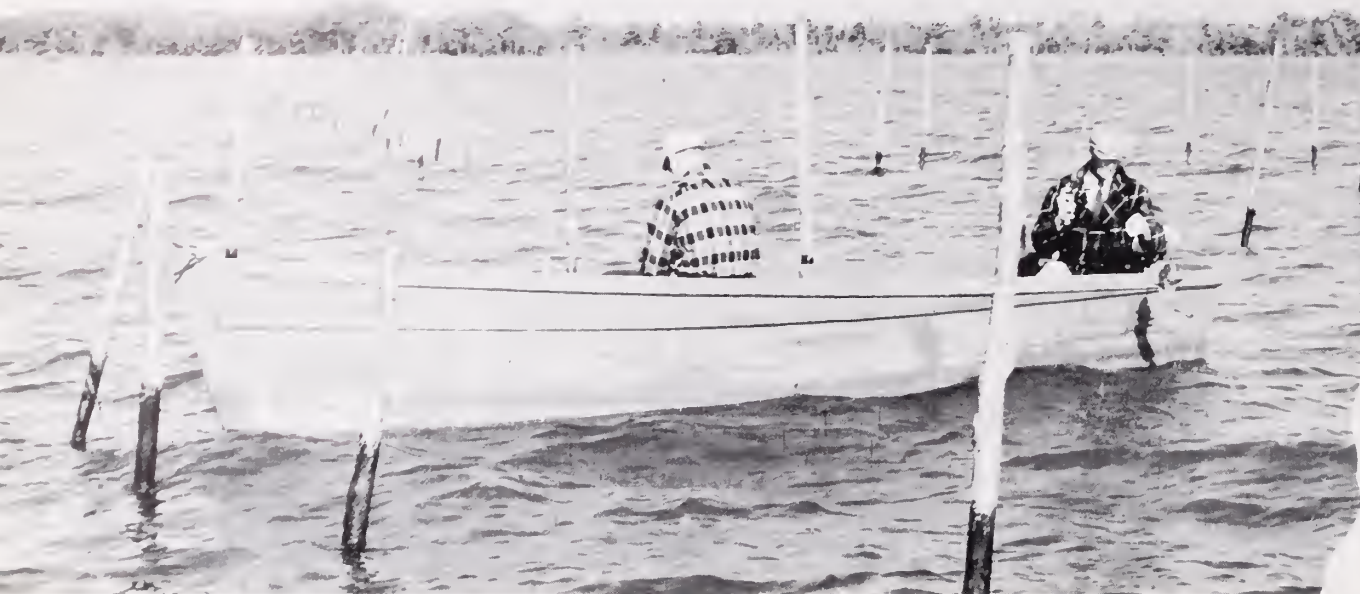
**WEST ENJOYS TURKEY BONANZA.** Turkey hunters west of the Blue Ridge just ended one of the most successful turkey seasons in recent years with a total harvest of 2,363, a more than 100% gain over last year's total, according to nearly complete tag returns analyzed by Game Commission personnel. The state-wide turkey total for the season was 3,249.

Hunters checked 442 turkeys in Bath County during the 44-day season, a record which has not been equalled by any county during the past 10 years. Other western counties showing remarkable increases were Botetourt, whose kill jumped from 39 in 1963-64 to 158, and Shenandoah, where the total increased from 36 to 147.

Rockbridge County ranked number two in total kill, with 293 turkeys. Among the three western counties just opened to turkey hunting last year, Giles, with a kill of 107, and Montgomery, with a kill of 145, made excellent showings.

Although the eastern counties did not show the dramatic increase noted in the west, their total of 886 turkeys represents an increase of 82 over last year's total taken during a similar 30 day late season. Amherst, Cumberland and Nelson counties exhibited marked increases in kill over the previous year.

**HUNTERS BAG 3,842 DOVES ON EXPERIMENTAL AREAS.** Hunters bagged a total of 3,842 doves during the first half of the split season on experimental dove-management areas developed by the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, according to Game Division Chief R. H. Cross. The breakdown of birds killed by area was: Camp Pickett 1,916, Kerr Reservoir 1,157, A. P. Hill 589, and Quantico 180. Relatively few birds were killed on the experimental fields on Cumberland Forest and the Powhatan Wildlife Management Area. All fields were open for half-day shooting on Wednesdays and Saturdays during the early dove season.



Commission photo by Kesteloo

Protected waters along both the bay and ocean sides of the eastern shore offer fine salt-water fishing from small boats such as this. Fishing from shore is largely impractical due to the vast expanses of marsh.

To this end, the Commission hopes eventually to have a put-in point every 10 miles down streams of this type. Good examples of fisherman access points are those on the James, the Shenandoah, and the Willis Rivers. Only fishing and hunting license funds are used in the construction of these ramps.

The third type of Commission-constructed ramp is the multiple-use launching site. These are situated on large impoundments and the upper tidal portions of our coastal rivers. Fresh-water fishermen and boaters both use these launching ramps, so funds from boating registrations and from hunting and fishing licenses are used to finance them. Since most of these receive heavy use, concrete ramps and sizable parking access are required.

The rate of construction and distribution of boat launching facilities is determined by the availability of funds, by the local need, and by the availability of suitable sites. Commercial access points as well as public are considered in determining need. Localities which have land available for the construction of launching facilities are given first consideration. Counties or cities are further asked to provide sanitation service for the areas and long access roads are taken into the secondary highway or city street system. The Commission maintains the ramps and parking areas.

Although the Commission provides no other recreational facilities such as picnic tables, shoreline park areas, etc., localities are free to add these features where space permits. In some cases, access ramps have been planned as a part of more extensive county and city park facilities.

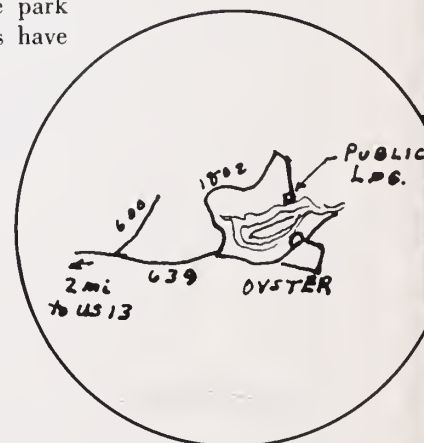
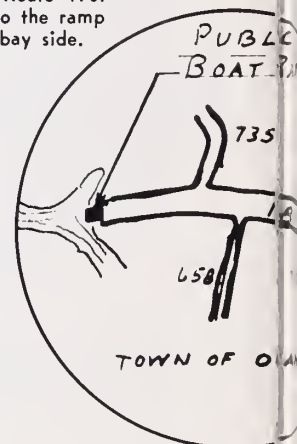
Commission photo by Shomon



Rail shooting is the number one hunting activity in eastern shore marshes. Shooting from a boat is the most practical method of taking these marsh hens.



**ONANCOCK LANDING**—The reinforced concrete ramp and creosoted timber walkway is located in the town of Onancock, at the end of Route 178. A one-fourth acre parking lot is adjacent to the ramp on the shore of Onancock Creek on the bay side.



**OYSTER LANDING**—Located near the town of Oyster on the north side of Oyster Slip, at the end of Route 1802 off of Route 639, this landing provides access on the Atlantic side to Mockhorn Bay, Sand Shoal Channel, and the Game Commission's Mockhorn Island Wildlife Management Area accessible only by boat. The site has a 10 by 62 foot reinforced concrete ramp, a creosoted timber walkway, and a three-quarter acre graveled parking lot.



**QUEENS SOUND LANDING** — The Commission landing here is located south of Route 175, the main approach to Chincoteague from the west, at the end of Route 760. The ramp is of concrete and gives access to Queens Sound on the Atlantic side.

**SAXIS LANDING** — The Commission landing is located off Route 695 on Route 697 one-half mile north of the town of Saxis. Facilities include a 14 by 48 foot reinforced concrete ramp and a creosoted timber walkway with parking space along the access road. The launching site gives access to Pocomoke Sound on the bay side.

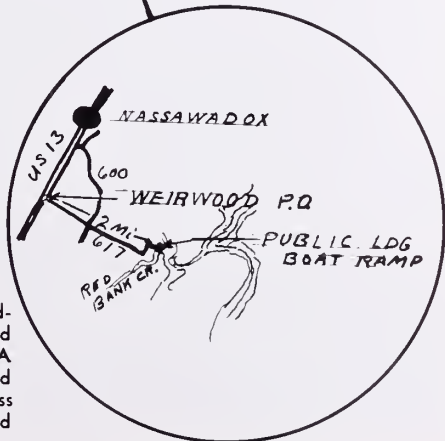
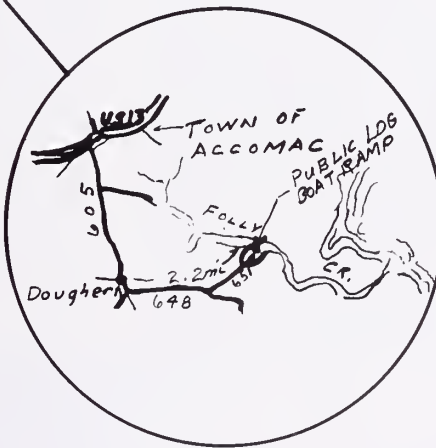
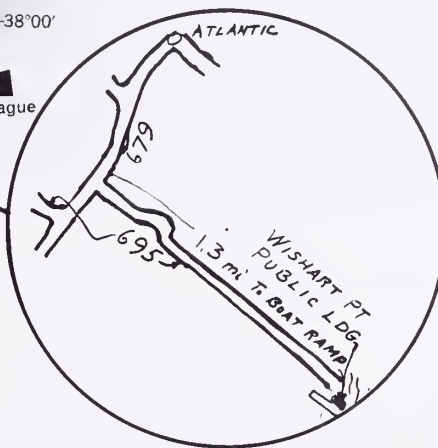
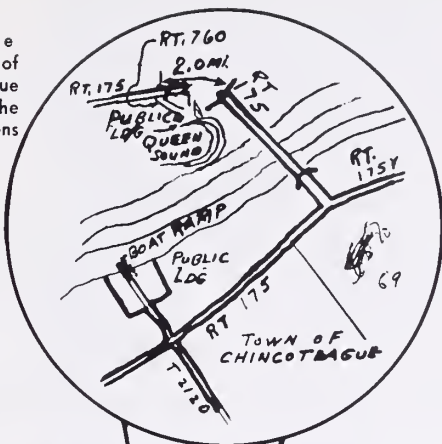
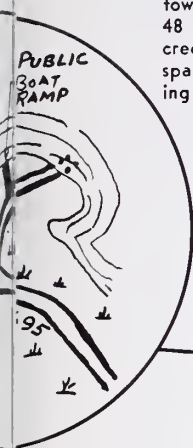
**CHINCOTEAGUE LANDING** — Located in the town of Chincoteague at the end of Jester Street off of Route 175, the Commission landing here gives access to Chincoteague Channel on the Atlantic side. Facilities here include a reinforced concrete ramp, graveled one-fourth acre parking lot, and a creosoted timber walkway.

**WISHART'S POINT LANDING** — This landing is located south and east of Atlantic at the end of Route 695 adjacent to Wishart's Point Yacht Club. There is a reinforced concrete ramp, a creosoted timber walkway, and a one-half acre parking lot with additional parking at the yacht club. Access is provided to Bogues Bay and Chincoteague Inlet on the Atlantic side by way of Ballast Narrows.

**FOLLY CREEK LANDING** — This Commission landing is located at the end of Route 651, south and east of Accomac. It features a reinforced concrete ramp 16 feet wide, a creosoted timber walkway, and a 3/4 acre parking lot. It provides access to Metomkin Bay and Inlet on the Atlantic side via Folly Creek.

A nearby put-in point is a must for fishing, hunting, or nature hiking on Virginia's offshore islands accessible only by boat. Here a group plans to set up an overnight camp as a base for operations.

**RED BANK LANDING** — This Commission landing is located south and east of Nassawadox on Red Bank Creek 700 feet from the end of Route 617. A 5 foot reinforced concrete ramp is provided adjacent one-fourth acre parking area. Access to Hog Island Bay on the Atlantic side via Red Bank Creek.



# Photograph Your Hunting and Fishing Trips

**I**N order to increase greatly the enjoyment of your hunting and fishing trips, as well as that of all other pleasant excursions into the open, take a camera or two along and record forever those priceless moments. In the years to come you will never tire of looking at the wonderful pictures of the huge bass you caught after a fierce battle, the honker you shot or the fine bag of quail you took home.

Opportunities for splendid pictures are numerous and everywhere in the outdoors. Almost everything that happens and is seen is worth recording on film. Unfortunately, however, many sportsmen just won't take the time and trouble to shoot pictures. They are too interested in the chase. Yet only a few moments are necessary in order to preserve forever those never-to-be-forgotten events through the magic of film. It is time well spent. How often we hear someone say, "I sure wish I had some snapshots of our trip! They would be far more revealing than any verbal description of our fun that I might give you."

Numerous sportsmen take three cameras with them—one loaded with black and white film, a second with color and a third for movies. This is an ideal combination which will take care of almost any situation that may arise. Nowadays most people shoot movies only in color because it is so gorgeous. A camera loaded with color film for stills produces exquisite transparencies for screening or for making pictures that may be framed or placed in an album. But black and white shots are fine, too, and where nature features little color they serve the purpose admirably. They are also cheaper to take and process.

A telephoto lens comes in handy with any camera because it brings up close very distant objects such as deer, game birds and that fighting trout which is still a long way from being landed. If your camera is made to use a telephoto, by all means take one along. You never know when it will prove most useful, even imperative.

For wildlife photography a camera with a fast shutter speed and large lens aperture is most desirable, for with it you can capture birds on the wing and big game dashing for cover. The fast lens is, of course, necessary in order to provide sufficient light for the very short exposure required in action shooting. However, if you have only a simple camera, use it anyway; for with it you can capture all sorts of interesting subjects in which little or no movement is involved. Even an inexpensive box camera covers itself with glory and has often done so.

Most people prefer candid pictures to posed ones because they are more true to life and facial expressions are better. Such shots taken without the knowledge of the subject are highly cherished. When Jim is preparing supper over a glowing campfire, get him on film when he doesn't know it. Picture Bill firing at that grouse, casting for trout or even baiting his hook. You will long treasure a photograph of Steve getting into his sleeping bag or setting up the tent, and so will he. Water pictures are unusually beautiful—either pure scenics or marine activities in which good friends are featured. Members of the party will appreciate the pictures in the years to come.

You will probably want to take night pictures, so don't

leave your flash outfit behind. You cannot take a shot of a raccoon in a tree without artificial illumination long after the sun sets. Flash photography has become extremely popular, and some of the best outdoor shots would be impossible without these brilliant bulbs.

In swift action photography you sometimes cannot choose your composition because everything is so fast, but in your scenics there is normally lots of time. So move slowly, looking through the viewfinder from various angles. Often, by moving only a few feet one way or another you can obtain much choicer composition. Try to get some object in the immediate foreground when showing considerable distance in a scenic. It lends perspective and enhances the beauty of the picture. Shoot between a couple of reasonably nearby trees or with a rock in the foreground. Sometimes human subjects will serve the purpose. But when the main object is to portray a scene, have the people somewhat to one side of center and looking at the view, not at the camera. Only in obviously posed shots should people face the lens directly.

Nowadays many cameras are the automatic type, doing your thinking for you. The lens and shutter adjustments are always right. If your camera is the manual type, however, use a light meter and follow its reading in setting for the prevailing illumination. It is a great film saver. In color it is especially essential to hit the exposure "on the nose," for this film has less latitude than does black and white. The exposure must be correct within about half a stop. I try to do my color work between ten o'clock in the morning and five in the afternoon, with the sun behind me and fairly high in the sky. Best results are usually obtained when this suggestion is followed, although for special effects one may experiment in shooting directly into the sun or with lighting at the side. Sometimes such pictures turn out amazingly well, especially when high drama rather than sharp detail is the prime objective.

Pictures should have unity, only one activity being portrayed at a time. For instance, if Jim is enjoying the fish cooked for breakfast get up close to him, excluding any other events that may be taking place at the time. Make a





By HENRY H. GRAHAM  
*Twin Falls, Idaho*

Pictures should have unity, only one activity being portrayed at a time. Splitting wood and preparing an outdoor meal both make interesting pictures, but ordinarily a separate shot should be made of each.



sort of portrait of him. Do not include Bill's wood chopping or Phil's shaving operations. Both make good pictures but an individual shot should be made of each. It will then be complete in itself.

Let us suppose that members of your party have killed a nice bunch of ducks and you want a photo of the hunters and their bag. Put the camera on a tripod or other solid object, look at the scene through the viewfinder, release the camera's self timer, and join those who have already positioned themselves. In this way all members of the group can be included. A self timer may be purchased as a separate gadget if your camera does not possess this useful adjunct as a built-in mechanism. It is a wonderful thing to have along on your excursions into the open.

Most home movies are very rewarding. However, sometimes results are not too satisfactory because of errors on the part of the photographer. As is the case with still pictures it is very important to set the distance to subject accurately and expose the film properly. These things are basic fundamentals and should be carefully observed by everyone who trips a shutter.

Another point to remember is to make movie sequences

sufficiently long so that viewers will be able to identify the subject before the scene changes to something utterly different. Count slowly to about twenty before terminating the filming of a particular theme.

When the main purpose of movies is to show people, game that has been brought down, camp activities and such, move up close—to within eight or ten feet. Then everyone and everything can be easily identified. Some lensmen shoot from altogether too far away.

We have all heard the projectionist say something like, "Now there's Uncle Horace with a grouse." But no one except the cameraman may know it is really Uncle Horace or that the bird he's holding in his hand is a grouse, because of the great distance between himself and the camera. You can even approach the subject so near that you cut off the lower part of his body if you wish. You will still usually be picturing all that is important. Merely show what really counts and omit anything extraneous. This suggestion goes for both movies and stills, just as do most of the other points brought out in this article.

Here's wishing you the best of luck in your picture taking. May every shot turn out to be a masterpiece.



Opportunities for splendid pictures are numerous and everywhere in the outdoors. Almost everything that happens and is seen is worth recording on film.

Commission photo by Kesteloo



# COON HOUNDS



By ROLAND F. EISENBEIS  
*Superintendent, Conservation  
 Department  
 Forest Preserve District  
 Cook County, Illinois*

**F**OLKS living on a farm or in a small town, especially if not too far from a creek or river, seem to have more fun than city people. They spend more time out-of-doors. One of their most prized enjoyments is "coon hunting." It has all the drama and music of an opera.

At dusk, raccoons come down from their den trees to feed and play. They are inquisitive animals and frequently travel quite a distance. So, on a warm damp night after a spell of freezing weather, a little group of neighbors may gather, with their hounds, to go coon hunting. On such nights raccoons are more active, their scent is more easily followed by the hounds, and the dogs can be heard from longer distances.

Now, a good coon hound is a big gangling lop-eared shy beast. A wag of his bony tail can hurt like a kick on the shin. He costs as much as a horse and is always hungry, but his nose and his voice are worth it. He runs with his

Commission photo by Kesteloo



big muzzle close to the ground and, as a newsreel tells its story to your eyes, the news of the night is unerringly telegraphed to his keen brain by a marvelous sense of smell. Once on the trail of a coon, a good hound will never leave it. And, his voice has all the full-throated magic of an operatic bass, baritone or tenor, depending on the dog.

The best places to hunt raccoon are wooded river bottoms and belts of timber along the creeks. When the hunters reach a chosen spot, a lantern is lit and the dogs let loose. Away they go, fanning out in several directions. The hunters wait, silently, open-mouthed, straining their ears to catch the first sound. A big owl hoots far away. Presently a long hollow moan comes sifting back thru the trees and a boy whispers, "There's old Bess." His father growls, "A cold trail. Keep still." A "blue tick" pup, whimpering and slobbering with excitement, circles back into the light cast by the lantern and then away into the night.

Suddenly, out of the inky darkness and surprisingly near, comes a deep trumpet-like call that booms through the timber. A fat farmer chuckles, "Bugler's on a back trail." Off to the right, a sobbing "chop" starts up and settles into a steady "bay." ("Chop," in coon hunter language, is a short resonant bark. A "bay" is a continuous flow of sound.) Finally, in the distance, a sharp commanding bark is heard. The other dogs hush. Again that sharp bark. Someone yells, "Treed!" and everyone dashes off thru the underbrush, the lantern bobbing in the mist.

When they arrive, panting, the entire pack of hounds is raising a deafening clamor around a big leaning elm. A huge "redbone" hound leaps upward, clawing and tearing at the bark of the tree. Far up in the elm, two shining greenish eyes reflect the light of the high-held lantern. A brawny young man, arms overhead, struggles through the pack, striking right and left with his leather gauntlets, bawling, "Down! Down!" The coon is treed. The dog opera is over.

Sometimes, if a raccoon is surprised far from his den, such a chase will continue for hours. An old raccoon is wily. He may climb a tree and travel overhead across a patch of timber, by way of the branches, leaving the hounds howling at the foot of the first tree. Or he may gain a long lead by circling, back-tracking, and confusing his trail by wading in the shallow water of a small stream. He is fairly fast, but if caught on the ground he is a fierce fighter. He is a fine swimmer, utterly at home in water, and has four hands like a monkey. Many a good hound has been drowned by a big raccoon.

Why keep a big lazy-looking hound? Brother, just ask the man who owns one.



## 1965 Stocking Summary

(Continued from page 9)

	Period Stocked		
	Preseason	May	June
<b>GREENE CO.</b>			
Ivy Br.	B,R	B,R	
South R.	B,R	B,R	B,R
Swift Run	B,R	B,R	B,R
<b>HENRY CO.</b>			
Smith R.	B,R	R,BR	R
<b>HIGHLAND CO.</b>			
Back C.	B,R	R	
Bullpasture R.	B,R	R,BR	R,BR
Crab Run	B,R	B,R	
Davis Run (Stuarts Run)	B,R	B,R	
South Br. Potomac R.	B,R	B,R	
Benson Run*	B	B	
W. Dry Run*	B		
<b>LEE CO.</b>			
Hardys C.	B,R	R	
Martins C.	B,R	R	
N. Fk. Powell R.	B,R		
<b>MADISON CO.</b>			
Garth Run	B,R	B,R	
Hughes R. (includes Rapp. Co.)	B,R	B,R	R
Robinson R.	B,R	B,R	
Rose R.	B,R	B,R	
Rapidan R.	R		
<b>MONTGOMERY CO.</b>			
Brush C.	R	R	
Toms C.	R	R	
S. Fk. Roanoke R.	B,R	R,BR	R
Poverty C.*	R	R	
<b>NELSON CO.</b>			
Tye R.	R	R,BR	R,BR
N. Fk. Tye R.	R	R,BR	R
Stony C.	B,R	B,R	B,R
S. Fk. Rockfish R.	B,R		
<b>PAGE CO.</b>			
E. Fk. Hawksbill C.	B,R		
Hawksbill C.	B,R	B,R	
Cub Run*	R	R	R
Pitt Spring Run*	R	R	R

There will be trout to catch on April 3, whether you fish with cane pole or fancy gear, and whether you fish the lonesome headwaters or seek more human companionship beside the pools downstream.

Commission photos by Kesteloo



	Period Stocked		
	Preseason	May	June
<b>PATRICK CO.</b>			
Dan R. (below Power House)	R	R,BR	R
Dan River (above Power House)	R	B,R	
Rockcastle C.	B,R	B,R	
Round Meadow C.	B,R	B,R	
N. Fk. Mayo C.	B,R	B,R	
S. Fk. Mayo C.	B,R	B,R	
Poorhouse C.	B,R		
Big Ivy Creek	B,R	B,R	
<b>PULASKI CO.</b>			
Big Laurel C.	B,R	R	R
W. Fk. Peak C.	B	R	
<b>RAPPAHANNOCK CO.</b>			
Piney Br.	B,R	B,R	
Rush R.	B,R	B,R	B,R
Thornton R., N. Fk.	B,R	B,R	
<b>ROANOKE CO.</b>			
Roanoke R.	B,R	R,BR	R
<b>ROCKBRIDGE CO.</b>			
Mill C.	B,R	B,R	
South R.	B,R	R,BR	R,BR
Irish C.	B,R	R,BR	R,BR
Elk C.*	R	R	
Hopper's C.*	R		
<b>ROCKINGHAM CO.</b>			
N. F. Shenandoah R.	B,R	B,R,BR	R,BR
Briary Br.	B,R	R	
Dry R.	B,R	R,BR	
German R.	B,R		
Silver Lake (Dayton)	B,R	B,R,BR	R
Boones Run*	B	B	
Fridley Run*	R	R	
Carr Run*	B		
Clay Lick Run*	B		
Shoemaker R.*	R	B,R	
Long Run*	B	B	
Black Run*	B	B	
Dry Run*	B	B	
Gum Run*	B		
Hope Quarry*	B	B	
Kephart Hollow*	R	R	
Mines Run*	R	R	
Skidmore*	B	B	
Union Springs*	B	B	
<b>RUSSELL CO.</b>			
Big Cedar Creek	B,R	R,BR	R
<b>SCOTT CO.</b>			
Little Stony C.	B,R	R	
Stock C.	B,R	R	R
Cove C.	B,R	B,R	
Devils Fork*	B	B	
Stony C.*	R	R	R
Straight Fk.*	R	R	R
Little Stony C.*	R	R	R
<b>SHENANDOAH CO.</b>			
Passage C. (lower)	B,R	B,R	B,R
Big Stony C. (incl. Lower Laurel Run)	B,R	B,R	B,R
Cedar C.	B,R	R,BR	B,R
Mill C.	B,R	R	
Laurel Run*	R	R	
Little Stony (above)*	B,R	R	R
Little Stony (below)*	R	R	
Mountain Run*	B	B	
Little Passage C.	B	B	
Upper Passage C.	B,R	B,R	
Peters Mill C.	B	B	

(Continued on page 20)

## WHOEVER SAW AN "OLD" GROUSE?

**H**OW long do ruffed grouse live? Not very long. Wildlife biologists at the University of Minnesota's Forest Research Center near Cloquet, Minnesota, have found that, of 1,000 eggs laid in grouse nests in early May, only about 700 produce chicks in early June. The others have been lost to nest predators. Only 350 of these chicks will still be alive by mid-July and about 260 by mid-September. In areas open to hunting, sportsmen will bag about 95 of these 260 birds during the fall and another 35 will die from natural causes over the winter, leaving about 130 yearling ruffed grouse alive for their first breeding season. There will be about 60 survivors from the original 1,000 eggs at the age of two years, 26 at 3 years, 12 at 4 years, 5 at 5 years, 2 at 6 years and one may survive to be 7 years old. Even on areas closed to hunting, such as the Cloquet Forest Refuge where no hunting has been allowed for 40 years, survival rates do not change. Only about 50 per cent of all birds hatched are present the next breeding season. Off the refuge most of this loss occurs during hunting season, while on the refuge most of it occurs in late winter and early spring.

## TRAPPERS ARE STILL IN BUSINESS

**A**ERICAN furbearers, once the primary object of a search that led explorers and trappers across the continent, still continue to be of interest to thousands of modern day trappers and fur farmers, as well as fashion experts who consider "mink a girl's best friend."

The popularity of these native animals is shown each year in the statistical summary of the fur catch in the United States compiled by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Figures recently released for 1963 show the American fur industry in reasonably good financial condition and indicated increased harvests of beaver, coyote, fisher, foxes, fur seals, lynx, marten, mink, muskrat, nutria, otter, raccoon, wolf and wolverine over 1962. The catch of badger, bassarisk, bobcat, opossum, skunk, and weasel was down over the previous year. Raw pelt prices were higher for those animals in demand, such as mink, muskrat, otter and beaver.

The size of the fur industry is indicated by export figures. During 1963, the United States exported 11,254,282 crude fur skins with a total value of \$35,126,730. Undressed foxes, muskrat and raccoon were exported to Canada and Europe; American opossum went to Mexico, Europe and New Zealand; while skunk went to Europe and the Korean Republic. Mink (primarily ranch mink) were exported to every continent and numbered 817,067 pelts, valued at \$14,376,004.

Despite the domestic supply of fur animals, however, the United States annually imports considerable quantities of certain pelts in high demand, such as beaver, foxes, marten, muskrat, nutria, otter, weasel, ermine and especially mink. Mink is still the most wanted fur in America because of its lustrous appearance and light weight.

## 1965 Stocking Summary (Continued from page 19)

	Period Stocked		
	Preseason	May	June
<b>SMYTH CO.</b>			
S. Fk. Holston R.	B,R	R,BR	R
Lick C.	B,R	R	R
Big Laurel	B,R	R	R
Staley C.	B,R	R	R
Little Laurel C.*	R	R	R
Cregger C.*	R	R	
Comers C.*	R	R	R
Hurricane C.*	B	B	
Cressy C.*	B	B	
Houneshell C.*	B	B	
Dickey Br.*	B	B	
E. & W. Fk. Nicks C.*	B		
Rowlands C.*	B	B	
Canady C.*	B	B	
<b>TAZEWELL CO.</b>			
Cove C.	B,R	R	R
Laurel C.	B,R	R	
Roaring Fk. C.	B,R	R	R
Little Tumbling C.	B,R	R	R
Punch & Judy C.*	R	R	
<b>WARREN CO.</b>			
Gooney Run	B,R	B,R	B,R
<b>WASHINGTON CO.</b>			
Whitotop Laurel C.	B,R	R,BR	R
Tennessee Laurel C.	B,R	R,BR	R
Green Cove C.	B,R	R	R
Big Brumley C.	B,R	R	R
Big Tumbling C.	R	R	R
<b>WISE CO.</b>			
S. Fk. Powell R.	R	R	
N. Fk. Pound R.	R	R	
Burns C.*	B	B	
Clear C.*	R	R	R
Mountain Fk. (Big Stony)*	B	B	
<b>WYTHE CO.</b>			
Cripple C.	B,R	R,BR	R
Francis Mill C.*	R	R	
E. Stony Fk. C.*	R	R	
Dry Run*	R	R	
Gullion Fk. C.*	R		
W. Fk. Reed C.*	R		

The trout program pays off handsomely in thrills, excitement and satisfaction beside a cold mountain stream on a mild spring day.

Commission photo by Kesteloo





# The Happy One

**I**S the bluebird, the symbol of happiness, truly a happy bird? There have been periods when the species has suffered serious setbacks. Dr. Frank M. Chapman stated that in February 1895 the South Atlantic states were visited by a blizzard which practically annihilated the bluebirds wintering or resident in them, and the following spring the birds were absent from large areas where they had been common.

The possible loss of a beautiful bird, so intimately associated with man, was greatly deplored, but when not beset by other handicaps the bluebirds became as abundant as ever. Less evident, but in the end of greater significance, is the bluebird's struggle with the starling, an expansive species. The conflict is not over food, for the species are of different feeding habits, but over nesting sites. The bluebird cannot compete successfully with the starling's nesting adaptability when a normal site is not available. We cannot imagine that the bluebird will build in branches, vines, electric light hoods, or, in short, any place which will hold nesting materials. Let us, therefore, join forces with this gentle-voiced messenger of sky and earth by providing it with suitable homes in which these enemies, for whose presence we are responsible, will not be permitted to abide.

Thus was born the home for bluebirds, whereby the universal dimensions for nesting boxes were adopted. It is generally accepted that the floor of an artificial cavity should be 5 x 5 inches, the depth of the cavity 8 inches, entrance above the floor 6 inches, diameter of the entrance 1½ inches, and the height above the ground 5 to 10 feet. In this cavity, a nest of grasses is constructed in which four to six bluish-white eggs are deposited. The bluebird seems to be at home in our gardens and orchards or about our dwellings. One wonders what it did for a home before the white man came.

Dr. J. J. Murray writes (VIRGINIA WILDLIFE, April 1962) that for years the bluebird has diminished in numbers. Possibly a number of factors enter in this decline. Scarcity in some seasons is due to hard freezes that kill numbers of bluebirds by cutting off their winter food supply. Undoubtedly, one big factor, probably the chief, is the increase in the number of starlings. The starling, because of its more aggressive manners and because of its use of similar nesting places, is a dangerous competitor of the bluebird for nesting holes. Where the influx of the starling has not been too pronounced, the decline of the bluebird population has not been so serious.

Let us examine some factors that affect the bluebird populations. As indicated in *Audubon Field Notes*, June 1962, the years 1961 and 1962 were marked by low numbers. For the past several years prior to 1961 and 1962 a scarcity existed. After dropping to a record low of only 30 per cent of normal abundance in the winter a year ago, it seemed that bluebird population levels could not possibly go lower. But they have, for during the past winter in the Southeast bluebirds were a meager 18 per cent of normal. The year 1957 marked the last time bluebirds were abundant. The populations on the Christmas counts have been low, culminating in an apparent all-time low this past winter.



Photo by Mosby, V.P.I.  
A bluebird entering its nesting hole. Loss of such nesting sites to more aggressive species may have contributed to the bluebird's troubles.

What caused this decline is a matter of speculation. The coldness of recent winters and the widespread improper use of insecticides have been suggested and both have had a certain detrimental effect upon the situation. The summer of 1957 marked the beginning of the most extensive program of insecticide dissemination ever attempted in the range of the bluebird, the wholesale treating with heptachlor of rural areas in the Gulf states to attempt to eradicate the imported fire ant. This program has been continued every year since 1957, and although bluebirds had not declined much the first winter they have been scarce thereafter. Both factors cause the reduction of bluebird populations in a similar way, by killing the insects they eat. Low temperatures persist only in winter while secondary poisoning from chemicals extends through the spring, summer, and autumn food supply. Also the possibility exists that the insecticides may kill bluebirds directly, if enough of the poison can accumulate from contaminated insects eaten by the birds.

As a long-time trend, a period of twenty-four years, east of the Mississippi at about 30 degrees latitude, when the number of days during the winter with freezing temperatures were relatively low the bluebird populations the following winter were correspondingly high, and when winter was more severe the subsequent bluebird populations were correspondingly smaller. Thus, a combination of severe weather conditions, competition by other cavity nesting species, and the improper use of pesticides have been responsible for a gradual decline of the bluebird.

A few bluebirds remain during the winter. In early spring the northward movement of birds which have wintered to the south increases the numbers. Their cheery notes can be heard in the spring as they return to their nesting territories. May they never disappear from our fields and hedgerows.

From National Wildlife Federation Newsletter.



# ARBOR DAY

By DOROTHY E. ALLEN  
Education Officer

*If you have once planted a tree for other than commercial purposes, you have always in it a peculiar interest. You care more for it than you care for all the forests. You have planted it, and that is sufficient to make it peculiar amongst the trees of the world.*

Dreamthorp—BOOKS AND GARDENS

THE naked trees swayed to the March winds as the sun spotlighted their lattice-pattern dance on the deserted school ground. An automobile with city license pulled up in the school's parking area. A man and a lad got out. The freckled-face boy tugged at the man's sleeve and enthusiastically questioned, "Which one is your tree, Dad?"

Fifty or more deciduous trees studded the grounds and a dense row of pines of various sizes stood guard along the road behind the school. The man pointed to the evergreens. "Danny, you see those pines? The fifth one from the end is my tree," he said.

The boy raced ahead toward "the tree." The father quickened his pace and mused to himself how of all the trees in the country this *one* tree was so special to him. He guessed he'd been just about Danny's age when his teacher told the class about Arbor Day. It was a day "especially set apart and consecrated for tree planting." He remembered Miss Williams saying that trees were important for improving the appearance of public areas and homes as well as providing other benefits. They certainly had improved the appearance of the school yard. He looked up at the older deciduous trees and recalled how their leafy branches had offered shade from the hot sun of summer after a strenuous baseball game. How they had signaled the changing seasons. Every day after Washington's birthday during study hall he'd look out the window for the green of spring when he could then start counting the days to summer vacation. In the autumn their blazing colors told of leaves soon to be raked with reward of a marshmallow roast.

When his father reached him, Danny pointed to one of the pine branches and said, "Look, Dad, a nest that is about to fall apart."

"Oh, that's a dove's nest. They make flimsy ones like that. You see trees provide food and shelter for wildlife. When we go back, I'll show you a sweetgum. Their fruit balls with star-shaped seed pods hang on the tree all winter dispersing their winged seeds. These seeds are food for songbirds, chipmunks, and squirrels. A yellow gummy sap oozes from the bark. I used to pry off a wad and chew it during recess," he said.

The lad turned to his father and asked, "Dad, why were these trees planted in a row?"

The father told how in his class each student planted a tree and they put them along the west boundary as a wind-break. The father continued, "You see, there's quite a little drop-off from here down to the street. These trees are also preventing erosion. The roots of the trees help hold back rain water that would otherwise rush down, carry the topsoil away and cause gullies."

"Dad, Gram says that when you were my age you planted this tree and took care of it for years. You always come over and look at it every time you come back to visit. Is this true?" questioned the boy.

"Yes, that's true," replied the father.

"Gee, can I plant a tree like you did?" Danny asked.

"You sure can. I'll tell you what. Why don't you ask your teacher if your class can celebrate Arbor Day. That's when I planted 'my tree,'" said the father as once again Miss Williams' voice came to him from out of the past—"other holidays repose upon the past; Arbor Day proposes for the future" and "... a man does not plant a tree for himself; he plants it for posterity."

## Teachers, Why Not?

Why not have an Arbor Day celebration at your school? Arbor Day was declared a national observance on April 10, 1872, by Julius Sterling Morton, Secretary of Agriculture under President Grover Cleveland. The American Forest Congress in 1883 passed a resolution that Arbor Day be observed in schools throughout the country. The National Education Association adopted a similar resolution the next year. The Code of Virginia set Arbor Day officially as the second Friday in March, but you can observe the occasion almost any day in early spring. Its purpose is to dramatize the need for planting trees, and to implant the meaning of conservation in the minds of citizens, particularly the youth of the nation. This celebration is one of conservation's most effective methods of education, whether one or a number of trees are planted.

The increased interest in outdoor recreation has caused a growing awareness and appreciation of natural resources, and it should serve to boost Arbor Day.

Tree planting projects can take many forms. Trees may be planted on the school ground, home lawns, church yards, roadsides, future park areas, etc. Selection of trees to be planted is important. They should be in harmony with existing plants, adapted to local climatic and soil conditions. State and federal foresters, county agents, local nurseymen and game wardens are always glad to help and provide guidance in planting and taking care of the trees.

Arbor Day programs should not follow one set pattern but should be tailored to the given needs of the area. Consideration of other natural resources is included in Arbor Day activities. Exercises may be held outdoors or both outdoor and indoor programs may be combined and could include some of the following:

Music: National Anthem and Arbor Day songs

Invocation or Prayer

History and Significance of Arbor Day

Address by guest speaker

Actual planting of tree(s)

Dedication statement

Exhibits and posters. Examples: How a tree grows. Homes for wildlife. Trees prevent erosion. By-products from trees. Aesthetic value of trees. Etc.

Observe Arbor Day and send a picture of your class planting trees to "Youth Afield" Editor. It will appear in VIRGINIA WILDLIFE.





## The Sweetgum Tree

By A. B. MASSEY  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute  
Forestry and Wildlife

**S**WEETGUM, also called redgum, with its long, straight bole and pyramidal crown of nearly star-shaped leaves, is one of our more attractive and useful native Virginia trees. It is frequent to common in the eastern Piedmont and Coastal Plain, but rare in the mountains.

Sweetgum attains its greatest development in moist grounds, often in association with red maple, elm, cottonwood and other species typical of alluvial bottomlands. It also occurs along fence rows, and in dense, even-aged stands in old field situations. Its range extends from Connecticut to Florida, west through the Gulf States and Arkansas to eastern Texas, and southward in Mexico and Central America. While in nature it is a tree of moist soil, it does well as an ornamental in well drained uplands, in yards, and as a street tree if its shallow, spreading root system is not unduly covered by pavement. Its pleasing configuration, brilliant autumnal coloration, and peculiar corky outgrowths on its twigs give it special appeal for ornamental planting and use in landscaping.

In summer the fragrant five-lobed leaves are a glossy green, each lobe tapering to a slender point. In the fall the leaves become purplish-red or yellowish, often with a light metallic sheen.

The tree attains a height of eighty to one hundred feet, reaching full maturity in 200 to 300 years. The greatest development of the sweetgum in size and frequency occurs in the southern Mississippi River valley and the Gulf

States, where old trees 150 feet tall and with a trunk diameter of five feet have been recorded.

The heartwood of sweetgum is brownish with a tinge of red, hence the name "redgum" by which it is frequently known. The wood is fine, straight, close grained, and polishes well. It is used for interior finish, furniture, fancy boxes, veneer and similar products. Sometimes it is sold as satin walnut, or Circassian walnut. Sweetgum is one of our most important commercial hardwoods.

When the trunk of the sweetgum is cut or injured, the inner bark yields a yellowish, fragrant gum. The yield of gum is more abundant in trees of the lower South where some people enjoy chewing it. It is said to have a sweet balsamic flavor. As a child, I personally regarded it as a very poor quality and ill tasting chewing gum. The medicinal storax is gum of a related oriental species.

Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) is in the family with witch-hazel. The flowers are unisexual, both sexes occurring on the same plant (monoecious). The staminate flowers are in spherical clusters, several clusters growing on an erect stem. In fruiting, a one- or two-seeded capsule develops from each pistillate flower in the pendant ball, which becomes burr-like due to the fairly sharp tips of the numerous capsules. Branches of the tree are often rough with conspicuous ridges of the corky outer bark.

Birds such as goldfinches and purple finches often pick sweetgum seeds from the horny, pendant fruits. Squirrels and chipmunks also take them as food, as do bobwhites, and even mallards when the location of the tree permits its winged seeds to fall into shallow water.



Edited by HARRY GILLAM

### —State Records— Monster Walleye



This 17 pound walleye caught in the New River by W. C. Bradbury of Cambria shattered, by some margin, the 11 pound 12 ounce record of 1964, which was top in the Virginia Wildlife Trophy Fish Citation records. This is very probably the largest ever caught in Virginia and would have been near the world record mark a few years ago before big ones began turning up in the TVA impoundments. The current world record is 25 pounds.

### Lunker Rainbow



This 7 pound 12 ounce rainbow caught December 31 by Paul E. Flavin of Staunton just sneaked in to take top spot for the year and set a new record for the state. The big trout came from Todd Lake on the George Washington National Forest. The previous record holders weighed 7 pounds 1 ounce and came from Philpott Reservoir.

### National Wildlife Week to Spotlight Pollution Control

National Wildlife Week, sponsored annually since 1938 by the National Wildlife Federation and its state affiliates, will be observed this year during the period, March 14-20. Designed to focus public attention on a major conservation problem, the 1965 observance is centered on pollution—which kills wildlife, destroys property values, and endangers human health—and features the slogan: "Fight Dirty Water."

For the tenth consecutive year, Walt Disney has accepted the post of Honorary National Chairman. The internationally famous motion picture producer, long recognized for not only his entertaining and educational film features but also his deep interest in the outdoors and conservation of all natural resources, has contributed his services and those of his Hollywood studio in producing a one-minute public service television film announcement.

The Virginia Wildlife Federation, local affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation, has named L. R. Gardner of Norfolk as 1965 State Wildlife Chairman. The group plans a state-wide wildlife week campaign in cooperation with its affiliated clubs to bring the problems of pollution to the attention of Virginians.

### Commission Gives Tentative OK to Swan-Snow Goose Season

The Virginia Game Commission gave the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service a tentative expression of approval on the suggested limited shooting of swans and snow geese in the Old Dominion during the 1965-66 waterfowl season. If this favorable reaction is universal among the states considered for this type of shooting, the Fish and Wildlife Service will prepare factual data on which to base some such option to be included in the Atlantic Flyway Waterfowl framework from which East Coast states select their seasons and bag limits.

### Natural Hazard



This wicked looking stick about 10 inches long was discovered in the lung of a doe deer killed by Cecil Hawk of Manakin, Virginia. Mr. Hawk said that scars were evident where the stick had punctured the rib cage and penetrated the lung, but that all had healed completely and the deer acted perfectly normal.

### Fisheries Center Given Go-Ahead

Architects have been instructed to proceed with designs and specifications for the new National Fisheries Center and Aquarium to be built in East Potomac Park, Washington, D. C.

The new arrangement provides a total of 22 acres for the Fisheries Center and Aquarium. William Hagen, Acting Director of the facility, said construction should start early in 1966 with opening day tentatively set for early 1968.

The National Aquarium Bill authorized \$10 million for the facility which is expected to be the finest of its type in the world—a center for scientific research in addition to a showplace for aquatic life of all sorts.

The authorizing legislation requires repayment of construction costs and repayment of operational costs—a requirement unique among federal projects. This will be done by charging nominal admission fees of \$.75 for adults and \$.25 for children, with supervised youth groups being admitted free. The Stanford Research Institute Study predicts 21 million persons will visit Washington annually by 1970, and by 1980 the prediction is for 35 million annually.





# YOUTH AFIELD



Edited by DOROTHY ALLEN

## Hunter Safety Course

Through the cooperation of the Game Commission, represented by Fred W. Hottle, Virginia Game Warden, W. W. Robinson, Superintendent of Shenandoah County Schools, and Thomas L. Snyder, Director of Instruction, a Hunter Safety Course was given in the three high schools of Shenandoah County in November 1964. There were 98 certificates awarded at Stonewall Jackson High School, H. M. Hawkins as instructor, 74 certificates awarded at Central High School, Derwood Myers as instructor, and 117 certificates awarded at Strasburg High School, B. W. Roller as instructor.



## Gun Safety Clinic



Covington Virginian photo by Mike Steele  
Gunsmith Howard Sites, left, with Ed Lydiatt, Steve McLaughlin and Robert McKinney.

A gun safety clinic sponsored by the Alleghany Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America was held in late October at Covington for approximately 25 men and boys. The clinic was organized by O. E. Parker, Chairman of the Chapter's Gun Safety Committee, and Wallace McClung, Co-chairman. Instructors were Howard Sites, who discussed weapons; Sheriff M. W. Swoope, law enforcement and general laws; Kyle Dressler, care and safe use of a rifle; Chief of Police D. J. Leet, short arms handling; C. R. "Buster" Forbes, the "Hunt America Time" program under which hunters sign pledges to respect the landowner's property rights in return for permission to hunt.

## NATURE CAMP of the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs Inc.

A camp which affords excellent opportunities for developing future conservation leaders.

Camping Dates—1965

June 20-July 3 Grades 10, 11, 12

July 4-July 17 Grades 8, 9

July 18-July 31 Grades 6, 7

August 1-August 14 Grades 5, 6

For application blanks write to:

Mrs. Fred Schilling, Exec. Director  
Box 148, Rt. 2, Afton, Va. 22920

Pictured left:  
Stonewall Jackson High School students receiving their Hunter Safety Certificates from Warden Hottle and H. M. Hawkins.

Derwood Myers and Warden Hottle present Hunter Safety Certificates to students of Central High School.

B. W. Roller, instructor, watches as Strasburg High School students receive congratulations from Warden Hottle on completion of a Hunter Safety Course.

## Fishing Rodeo

Last August over seventy boys and girls from age 5 to 15 participated in the annual Ben Jarman Memorial Fishing Rodeo, named after its founder and given by the Charlottesville-Albemarle County Chapter of the Izaak Walton League. The rodeo was held at Mrs. Tompkins' pond a few miles north of Charlottesville. The youths competed for the prizes given for the biggest fish, the smallest fish, and the most fish. Numerous prizes were donated by local merchants and thirteen subscriptions to VIRGINIA WILDLIFE were given by members of the Chapter. The grand prize winner for the girls' division was Gloria Houchins; Barry Houchins was winner in the boys' group. Other winners included David Kirschnik, Debra Grimes, Peter Smith, Chuck Hughes, Hunter Smith, Scott Bickers, Leslie Robinson, Steven Gardner, Carl Smith, David Brown, Stephen Eddins, Carol Bickers, Kim Kerewich, Bradley Hughes, Wayne Flint, Gary Meeks, Debbie Bickers, and Kim Robinson.

The young anglers enjoyed an abundance of hot dogs and Dr. Pepper.



Ben Jarman and his anglers.



Top fishermen of the Charlottesville-Albemarle Chapter of IWLA fishing rodeo.



# ON THE WATERFRONT



Edited by JIM KERRICK

## Notice to Pleasure Boaters

Our Motorboat Safety Laws were enacted by the Congress of the United States and the General Assembly of Virginia to protect the lives and property of watermen. The Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries and the United States Coast Guard are responsible for enforcing these laws.

Owners and operators must equip and operate their boats properly for their own protection and for the protection of others. The law provides a penalty for failure to have proper safety equipment on board.

The Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries wants everyone voluntarily to keep his equipment in good condition; but when watermen fail to do so a penalty must be imposed to secure respect for the law. Each time a boat is boarded and violation(s) are found, additional penalties are likely to be imposed. You may be boarded at any time. Before operating your boat, make sure you have:

- The vessel's papers or certificate number.
- Boat numbers properly displayed on the hull, or name if the boat is documented.
- The required number and type of fire extinguishers.
- The required number and type of approved lifesaving devices.
- The required lights if you are going to operate between sunset and sunrise. If the vessel is anchored to the bottom, an all around white

light must be displayed at night.  
F. A bell, if your boat is 26 feet or over in length.

G. An approved back fire stop or flame arrestor secured to the carburetor on any inboard gasoline engine.

Caution: Since January 1, 1965, all lifesaving devices made of KAPOK or fibrous glass have been required to *have the pads encased in plastic liners*. Previously approved equipment not conforming to this requirement is no longer acceptable regardless of its USCG stamp of approval.

## Your Boat Trailer

It is estimated that there are approximately three million boat trailers in use today throughout the country, but let us talk only about *your* boat trailer.

More than likely last fall you pulled your trailer into the yard and parked it for the winter months. Now it is getting warmer, the fish have started to bite and the family wants to go for a boating trip on one of Virginia's wonderful bodies of water.

Ask yourself these questions. Have the wheels been removed and the bearings and hubs thoroughly cleaned and repacked with good grease? Is all of the electrical equipment in good working order and do the signal lights and reflectors comply with Virginia motor vehicle laws? Are the tires inflated correctly for the load you will carry, and have you inspected the tires to see if

they should be replaced? Is the trailer hitch working properly and the safety chain intact? Are the rollers and tie-down straps in good shape, and is your inspection sticker still in effect?

Take time to answer all of these questions as there is nothing worse than to get ready to go and find out you can't because you did not take time to check the trailer, or to be enroute and have a breakdown.

## "Chock" for Safety

Webster defines the word "chock" as a wedge or block to fill a space, to steady a cask, boat, wheel, or other body, or to prevent it from moving.

To prevent your boat trailer and automobile from rolling into the water in case of a brake failure, why not "chock" one or both of the rear wheels of your automobile.

Simply take a block of wood approximately six by six by ten inches and cut the block diagonally lengthwise. This will give you two "chocks" to use when you are launching your boat or parking your car on a grade. If you desire, you can attach the two chocks together with a piece of rope.

Sometimes the best equipment in the world fails and the addition of "chocks" to your boating equipment is inexpensive; they take up very little room in your trunk compartment or in your boat. Most of all, a piece of wood could very easily save you a great deal of money and possibly keep someone from getting injured.

An easily made set of chocks, and the right way to use them to prevent accidents while handling cars, boats and trailers at launching ramps.

Commission photos by Kesteloo





# Black Vulture

By DOCTOR J. J. MURRAY  
*Lexington*



ONE day last winter on the island of Trinidad we came around a curve on a mountain road to find three vultures perched on a branch across a small canyon. They were so tame that the car did not disturb them in the least. They happened to represent the three different species of vultures that are common in Trinidad, the turkey and black vultures and one far southern variety, the yellow-headed vulture.

Later we saw black vultures by the hundreds around the city dump at the capital, Port of Spain. The range of the black vulture is more southern than that of the turkey vulture, normally not extending farther north than Maryland and the southern edges of Ohio and the other central states. It is abundant as far south as northern Argentina and Chile.

It is easy to distinguish the black vulture from its larger relative. The naked skin on its head is black where on the turkey vulture it is red. The plumage is dull black where the other bird's is brownish black, like a turkey. It is much more compactly built. When it flies it does not soar so much but travels with quick wing flaps. Two other and very noticeable features when the bird is seen in the air are its whitish feet and the large white patch near the end of each wing.

In food habits the black vultures are beneficial as scavengers, but there is no question that at times they kill very young pigs and even weak calves. Although smaller than the turkey vulture the black is stronger.

In eastern Virginia the black vulture lays its two eggs in hollow logs or stumps and in deserted shacks, while in the mountains it generally uses small coves in the rocks. The highest nest on record is one that has been used for many years in Rockbridge County. It is in a hollow under large rocks at 3200 feet on the top of House Mountain. With a pale bluish or greenish base and scrawls of reddish or black markings, the eggs are lovely even if the bird is not. Although this vulture is smaller than the turkey vulture its eggs are considerably larger. In fact, they are remarkably large for the size of the bird, running to about three inches in length and two inches across.

When the young hatch they are covered with down of a rich buffy color, while the small young of the turkey vulture have white down. If you are foolish enough, as I have been, to come near them in the nest cavity, the young birds make a hissing noise and promptly present you with their last meal, which was not at all fresh even when they got it. The incubation period is around thirty days or more, the young then staying in the nesting place for another three months before they are able to fly. It would seem that such strong food should work more quickly.

*Bird*

*of*

*the*

*Month:*





# Know These Fish

